

REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims in order to further clarify the definition of various aspects of the present invention. Specifically, Applicants are amending each of claims 1, 3 and 4 to recite specified members are supported by a "bed", rather than by a backing plate. Furthermore, Applicants are canceling claims 7 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Initially, it is respectfully requested that the present amendments be entered. Noting 37 CFR 1.116(b), it is respectfully submitted that canceling of claims 7 and 8 is clearly proper, notwithstanding finality of the Office Action mailed August 16, 2005.

In addition, the indication by the Examiner that Applicants have failed to incorporate the same changes in claims 1, 3 and 4, as had previously been made to claim 6, is noted. By the present amendments, Applicants are amending claims 1, 3 and 4 to recite a "bed", consistent with previous amendments made to claim 6. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments do not raise any new issues, including any issue of new matter, again noting amendments to previously considered claim 6; and, moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments are timely, being made after the indication by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed August 16, 2005, and that the present amendments materially limit issues remaining in the above-identified application.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants have made the necessary showing under 37 CFR 1.116(c); and that, accordingly, entry of the present amendments to claims 1, 3 and 4 is clearly proper.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-6 under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, as failing to comply with the written description

requirement, especially insofar as this rejection is applicable to the claims as presently amended. In particular, Applicants note that claim 6 previously had been amended to recite a --bed-- rather than a "backing plate". Clearly, such bed is described in Applicants' original disclosure; note, for example, the structure represented by reference character 70 in Fig. 10, and the description in connection therewith in the first paragraph on page 12 of Applicants' specification. Note also Figs. 9(A)-(D), and the description in connection therewith on pages 10 and 11 of Applicants' specification, especially the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 thereof.

In view of previous amendment of claim 6, the basis for rejection of claim 6 under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, in the Office Action mailed August 16, 2005, is not understood. More generally, in view of present amendments to claims 1, 3 and 4, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-6 under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, on the basis that a "backing plate" recitation is not supported by the original disclosure, is moot. Clearly, the original disclosure describes a "bed" as in the present claims.

The rejection of claims 7 and 8 on prior art grounds, as set forth on pages 3-7 of the Office Action mailed August 16, 2005, is moot, in view of present canceling of claims 7 and 8.


Similarly, it is respectfully submitted that the Response by the Examiner to Applicants' arguments, set forth in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the Office Action mailed August 16, 2005, is moot, in light of present canceling of claims 7 and 8.

In view of the foregoing comments and amendments, entry of the present amendments, and reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims presently pending in the application, are respectfully requested.

Applicants request any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper be charged to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (case 503.35255VX1), and credit any excess payment of fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

By 

William I. Solomon
Registration No. 28,565

WIS/ksh
1300 N. Seventeenth Street
Suite 1800
Arlington, Virginia 22209
Tel: 703-312-6600
Fax: 703-312-6666